

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) A needle-like member that constitutes a conductive contact which electrically connects a first object, the needle-like member comprising:

- a columnar member having
 - a first end and a second end;
 - a through hole that connects the first end to the second end; and
 - a contact member configured to electrically contact with the first object and arranged at the first end,
- wherein the through hole ~~tapers from the first end toward the second end~~ has hole portions with different inner diameters.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The needle-like member according to claim 6, wherein the second object is a circuit that generates and transmits an electrical signal to be supplied to the first object.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The needle-like member according to claim 6, wherein the second object is a circuit board that includes a circuit for generating and transmitting an electrical signal to be supplied to the first object.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The needle-like member according to claim 6, wherein the contact member is located near a periphery of the columnar member in a longitudinal direction to come in contact with a periphery of a connecting electrode of the first object.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) A conductive contact that electrically connects a first object to a second object, the conductive contact comprising:

a first needle-like member that included a columnar member having
a first end and a second end;
a through hole that connects the first end to second end; and
a contact member configured to electrically contact with the first object
and arranged at the first end; and
a second needle-like member that is arranged to electrically connect to the first
needle-like member, and slide in the through hole of the first needle-like member; and
a spring member that is fixed to the first needle-like member and surrounds an
outer surface of the columnar member, and applies an elastic force on the second
needle-like member present in the through hole.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The conductive contact according to claim 12,
wherein the second object is a circuit that generates and transmits an electrical signal
to be supplied to the first object.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The conductive contact according to claim 12,
wherein the second object is a circuit board that includes a circuit for generating and
transmitting an electrical signal to be supplied to the first object.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The conductive contact according to claim 12,
wherein the through hole has a constant diameter.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The conductive contact according to claim 12,
wherein the through hole ~~tapers from the first end toward the second end~~ has hole
portions with different inner diameters.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The conductive contact according to claim 12,
wherein the second needle-like member includes

a support member that is slidable in the longitudinal direction while being in
contact with an inner surface of the through hole; and
a contact member that is integrally formed with the support member, and

configured to electrically contact with the second object.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) A conductive contact unit comprising:
a conductive contact including
a needle-like member that includes a columnar member having a first end and a second end, a through hole that connects the first end to the second end, and a contact member configured to electrically contact with an object; and
a spring member surrounding an outer surface of the columnar member that biases the needle-like member in a direction perpendicular to the object; and
a conductive contact holder that includes a holder hole for accommodating the conductive contact.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The conductive contact unit according to claim 18, further comprising a circuit that generates and transmits an electrical signal to be supplied to the object.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The conductive contact unit according to claim 18, further comprising a circuit board that includes a circuit for generating and transmitting an electrical signal to be supplied to the object.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) The conductive contact unit according to claim 18, wherein the through hole has a constant diameter.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The conductive contact unit according to claim 18, wherein the through hole ~~tapers from the first end toward the second end~~ has hole portions with different inner diameters.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) A needle-like member that constitutes a conductive contact which electrically connects a first object to a second object, the needle-like member comprising:

a columnar member having a first end and a second end, and a through hole that connects the first end to the second end; and

a contact member configured to electrically contact with the first object and arranged at the first end,

wherein the columnar member and the contact member are integrally formed.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) The needle-like member according to claim 23, wherein the second object is a circuit that generates and transmits an electrical signal to be supplied to the first object.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented) The needle-like member according to claim 23, wherein the second object is a circuit board that includes a circuit for generating and transmitting an electrical signal to be supplied to the first object.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) The needle-like member according to claim 23, wherein the through hole has a constant diameter.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended) The needle-like member according to claim 23, wherein the through hole ~~tapers from the first end toward the second end,~~ has hole portions with different inner diameters.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) The needle-like member according to claim 23, wherein the contact member is located near a periphery of the columnar member in a longitudinal direction to come in contact with a periphery of a connecting electrode of the first object.